

#### 4VAC15-90-89. Game: Deer: Earn a buck (EAB).

##### Summary:

The proposal is to (i) add private lands in Albemarle, Culpeper, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson, Hanover, Henrico, James City, Prince George, Pulaski, Shenandoah, and York to EAB, (ii) change EAB on private lands in Clarke, Frederick, and Warren counties from 1:1 to 2:1, and (ii) clarify that only those antlerless deer that are taken in a particular town or city count toward the EAB requirement in that town or city.

##### Proposed language of amendment:

#### 4VAC15-90-89. Earn a buck (EAB).

For the purposes of this section, the term "license year" defines the period between July 1 and June 30 of the following year.

Albemarle County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Albemarle County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Albemarle County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in Albemarle County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in Albemarle County.

Arlington County. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer in Arlington County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer in Arlington County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer in Arlington County prior to taking at least three antlerless deer in Arlington County.

Bedford County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Bedford County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Bedford County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in Bedford County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in Bedford County.

Clarke County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Clarke County prior to taking at least ~~one~~ two antlerless deer on private lands in Clarke County.

Culpeper County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Culpeper County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Culpeper County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in Culpeper County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in Culpeper County.

Fairfax County. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer in Fairfax County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer in Fairfax County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer in Fairfax County prior to taking at least three antlerless deer in Fairfax County.

Fauquier County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Fauquier County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Fauquier County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in Fauquier County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in Fauquier County.

Floyd County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Floyd County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Floyd County.

41 Franklin County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer  
42 on private lands in Franklin County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Franklin  
43 County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in Franklin County prior to  
44 taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in Franklin County.

45  
46 Frederick County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer  
47 on private lands in Frederick County prior to taking at least ~~one~~ two antlerless deer on private lands in  
48 Frederick County.

49  
50 Grayson County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer  
51 on private lands in Grayson County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Grayson  
52 County.

53  
54 Hanover County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer  
55 on private lands in Hanover County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Hanover  
56 County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in Hanover County prior to  
57 taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in Hanover County.

58  
59 Henrico County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer  
60 on private lands in Henrico County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Henrico  
61 County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in Henrico County prior to  
62 taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in Henrico County.

63  
64 James City County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered  
65 deer on private lands in James City County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in  
66 James City County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in James City  
67 County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in James City County.

68  
69 Loudoun County. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer in Loudoun  
70 County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer in Loudoun County, and it shall be unlawful to take a  
71 third antlered deer in Loudoun County prior to taking at least three antlerless deer in Loudoun County.

72  
73 Montgomery County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered  
74 deer on private lands in Montgomery County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in  
75 Montgomery County.

76  
77 Prince George County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered  
78 deer on private lands in Prince George County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands  
79 in Prince George County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in Prince  
80 George County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in Prince George County.

81  
82 Prince William County except on Department of Defense lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful  
83 to take a second antlered deer in Prince William County (except on Department of Defense lands) prior to  
84 taking at least two antlerless deer in Prince William County (except on Department of Defense lands), and  
85 it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer in Prince William County (except on Department of Defense  
86 lands) prior to taking at least three antlerless deer in Prince William County (except on Department of  
87 Defense lands).

88  
89 Pulaski County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer  
90 on private lands in Pulaski County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Pulaski  
91 County.

Rappahannock County. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer in Rappahannock County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer in Rappahannock County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer in Rappahannock County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer in Rappahannock County.

Roanoke County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Roanoke County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Roanoke County.

Shenandoah County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Shenandoah County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in Shenandoah County.

Warren County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in Warren County prior to taking at least ~~one~~ two antlerless deer on private lands in Warren County.

York County on private lands. During a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer on private lands in York County prior to taking at least one antlerless deer on private lands in York County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer on private lands in York County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer on private lands in York County.

Cities and towns. During a license year in any town or city (except Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach) east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer prior to taking at least one antlerless deer in that town or city, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer prior to taking at least two antlerless deer in that town or city. During a license year in any town or city west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer prior to taking at least one antlerless deer in that town or city.

### **Rationale:**

Albemarle County private land EAB. Newly adopted deer population management objectives have recommended stabilizing the deer population in Albemarle County and this objective has been and is currently being met. However, the human population is increasing rapidly in this area and urban deer conflicts in and around Charlottesville are very common. The number of out-of-season deer kill permits issued annually (for both agricultural and urban issues) in Albemarle County is routinely the highest in Virginia, and over the past decade the number of deer reported killed on these kill permits annually has ranged from 770 to 1,891 deer and averaged 1,128 deer per year. Deer vehicle collisions are an important deer management issue in this area. Therefore, deer management staff feels that initiating EAB in this area is a proactive step that should be taken at this time.

Clarke County private land 2:1 EAB. A 1:1 EAB regulation has been in effect in Clarke County since fall 2010, and this county has been a part of the Department's four county chronic wasting disease (CWD) disease management zone since 2015. Clarke County routinely has one of the highest deer population indexes in Virginia. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction in Clarke County, and the private land deer population index is down significantly from 10-20 years ago. However, the deer population index needs to be reduced further per the deer population management objective in the Department's deer management plan. Initiating a 2:1 EAB in this county should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and result in a decrease in the deer population.

Culpeper County private land EAB. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction in Culpeper County. This objective is currently not being met. Initiating EAB in this county should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and result in a decrease in the deer population.

Floyd County private land EAB. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction in Floyd County. This objective is currently not being met. Initiating EAB in this county should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and result in a decrease in the deer population.

Franklin County private land EAB. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction in Franklin County. EAB was in effect on private lands in Franklin County from 2008 through 2012 and brought about a desired reduction in the deer population index. In fall 2013 EAB was removed, and the deer population index has demonstrated an increasing trend since. Initiating EAB in this county again should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and result in a decrease in the deer population.

Frederick County private land 2:1 EAB. A 1:1 EAB regulation has been in effect in Frederick County since fall 2010. CWD was found in this county in fall 2009. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction on private lands in Frederick County. The private land deer population index is down significantly from 10-20 years ago. However, the deer management staff proposes reducing the private land deer population index further per the deer population management objective in the Department's deer management plan.

Grayson County private land EAB. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction on private lands in Grayson County. This objective is currently not being met. Initiating EAB in this county should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and result in a decrease in the private land deer population.

Hanover County private land EAB. Newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction in Hanover County due to human population growth and the potential for increasing human-deer conflicts. Liberal either-sex hunting seasons over the last decade have maintained a deer population index well above the new target deer population index objective. Initiating EAB in this county should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and hopefully result in a decrease in the deer population index per the new deer population management objective in the Department's deer management plan.

Henrico County private land EAB. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction in Henrico County due to human population growth and the potential for increasing human-deer conflicts. Liberal either-sex hunting seasons over the last decade have been successful in reducing the deer population index, but with over 1,300 people per square mile, the new objective in this county is to reduce the deer population index to a very low level. Initiating EAB in this county should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and hopefully result in a further decrease in the deer population index.

James City County private land EAB. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction in James City County. Liberal either-sex hunting seasons over the last decade have been successful in reducing the deer population index, but with approximately 500 people per square mile, the new objective in this county is to reduce the deer population index to a lower level. Urban deer conflicts and deer vehicle collisions are important deer management issues in this area.

Initiating EAB in this county should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and hopefully result in a further decrease in the deer population index.

Prince George County private land EAB. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction in Prince George County. Liberal either-sex hunting seasons over the last decade have been successful in reducing the deer population index, but the new objective in this county is to reduce the deer population index to a slightly lower level due to human population growth and the potential for increasing human-deer conflicts. Initiating EAB in this county should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and result in a decrease in the deer population.

Pulaski County private land EAB. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction on private lands in Pulaski County. This objective is currently not being met. In fact, over the past decade the private land deer population index for Pulaski County has increased 40%. Initiating EAB in this county should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and result in a decrease in the private land deer population.

Shenandoah County private land EAB. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction on private lands in Shenandoah County. This objective is currently not being met. EAB was in effect on private lands in Shenandoah County from 2010 through 2012. Initiating EAB in this county again should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and result in a decrease in the private land deer population. Shenandoah County is also a CWD positive county and part of the four county CWD disease management area.

Warren County private land 2:1 EAB. A 1:1 EAB regulation has been in effect in Warren County since fall 2010, and this county has been a part of the Department's four county CWD disease management zone since 2015. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction in Warren County. The private land deer population index is down significantly from 10-20 years ago. However, the deer management staff proposes reducing the private land deer population index further per the deer population management objective in the Department's deer management plan. Initiating a 2:1 EAB in this county should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and result in a decrease in the deer population.

York County private land EAB. Past and newly adopted deer population management objectives recommend a deer population reduction in York County due to human population growth and the potential for increasing human-deer conflicts. Liberal either-sex hunting seasons over the last decade have been successful in maintaining a low deer population index, but with over 620 people per square mile, the new objective in this county is to reduce the deer population index to a very low level. Initiating EAB in this county should incentivize the harvest of additional antlerless deer and hopefully result in a further decrease in the deer population.

Cities and towns EAB. This proposal addresses an oversight in regulation that might be misconstrued to allow a hunter to count antlerless deer taken anywhere in the Commonwealth toward the EAB requirement in a particular town or city.